

"Express Mail" mailing label number B00458540W

Date of Deposit 9-11-89

Docket No. A85010CIPCCIP

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Carol J. DeLuca IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

*offered  
ref*

11-8-89

In re Patent Application of:

INVENTOR: David Whipple

TITLE: Priority Apparatus Having Programmable Node  
Dwell Time

SERIAL NO.:

EXAMINER:

FILED: Herewith

ART UNIT:

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO.: ID-89-0046

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

The following U.S. Patents and journal article have been made of record during the prosecution of the copending parent of this patent application (S.N. 07/317,100, filed 2/28/89) and are also being made of record in this continuation-in-part application. These patents and journal article are believed to be of interest in the examination of the above referenced patent application and are hereby being disclosed in accordance with applicants' attorney's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56. These patents and journal article are also listed on form PTO-1449, attached hereto.

U.S. PATENTS

In U.S. Patent No. 4,232,294, November 4, 1980 Burke et al. disclose at col. 3, line 58 that the priority of a



station in a system is determined by a relationship between a register 20 that contains the address of the station having the highest priority and a register 22 which contains the address of the particular station. Burke further indicates at col. 4, lines 10-15 that the register 22 may be embodied in switches that are settable to specify the station address. The priority of a station of Burke is believed to bear no relationship to the physical location relative to other stations. Figs. 1 and 2 of Burke disclose a plurality of counters 10, 12 and 28. As is evident from col. 5, line 62 to col. 6, line 22 and from col. 6, line 60 to col. 7, line 16 the counters 10, 12 and 28 have a very different function than the counter 720 of Fig. 8 of the instant patent application.

In U.S. Patent No. 4,320,502, March 16, 1982 deVeer discloses a counter 21 in Fig. 2 which is said at col. 3, lines 54-61 to be a local access timeout counter. The state of the counter 21 is said to be compared to a digital access priority number held in a register 23.

In U.S. Patent No. 4,366,480, December 28, 1982 Van Hatten discloses a demand driven access mechanism for a plurality of active stations that are capable of seizing use of a channel. As is indicated in col. 4, lines 53-58 once a station seizes a channel it continues to use the channel until it completes its use.

In U.S. Patent No. 4,559,595, December 17, 1985 Boudreau et al. disclose a system in which priority among devices is determined by the physical positions of the devices in the system. There is no indication from an examination of Fig. 9 of Boudreau that any mechanism is

employed for granting a programmable number of accesses at a highest priority.

In U.S. Patent No. 4,583,089, April 15, 1986 Cope discloses a communication system having a plurality of remote stations. Each remote station has two variable transfer monitor timers.

In U.S. Patent No. 4,626,843, December 2, 1986 Szeto et al. disclose a communication bus system wherein access to the bus is granted on a round-robin basis with each node having an equal chance to transmit to the bus. Nodes are each given an access opportunity in turn beginning with one adjacent to the one that was last granted bus access and ending with the one that was last granted bus access. If a node has a number of message transmissions to make it may obtain repeated access to the bus until such time as another node requests the bus. At this time the first node must relinquish the bus, at least temporarily.

In U.S. Patent No. 4,663,756, May 5, 1987 Retterath discloses a priority system wherein access codes are placed in a channel access code register. A memory device is used to receive current request status signals and provides a stored access code in response to the current request status signals.

In U.S. Patent No. 4,719,622, January 12, 1988 Whipple et al. disclose subject matter that forms the original parent application of the instant continuation-in-part application.

In U.S. Patent No. 4,763,122, August 9, 1988 Franaszek discloses a controller that provides parallel control of crosspoints to increase the throughput of a switching matrix and controller. The system of Franaszek is said to provide for parallel control of crosspoints in that each station controls the opening and closing of appropriate crosspoints.

#### JOURNAL ARTICLES

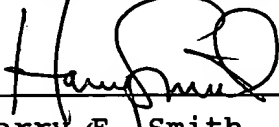
In an article entitled "Decentralized Request Resolution Mechanisms" IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin Vol. 20, No. 2, July 1977 D. F. Bantz discloses a system in which priority among devices is determined by the device address.


#### REMARKS

None of these patents or the journal article are believed to teach a system wherein access of a device to a bus is determined by assigning priorities to the devices and wherein a device gaining the highest bus priority is granted a programmable number of bus accesses before relinquishing the highest priority to another device. The claims as presented are thus

believed to be patentable over these references either singularly or in combination one with another.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Harry F. Smith  
Reg. No. :32,493

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Perman & Green  
425 Post Road  
Fairfield, CT. 06430

Telephone: (203) 259-1800  
Facsimile: (203) 255-5170